

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Benjamin D. Bailey on May 19, 2010.

The application has been amended so independent **claim 34** reads as follows (additions underlined):

A method for the introduction of a liquid into a molten mass under pressure, comprising the steps of:

(a) bringing said liquid to a predetermined pressure greater than the pressure of said molten mass by means of at least one pump, the pump comprising a plurality of pumping units, staggering the pumping units in such a manner that the liquid is pumped by the different pumping units at distinct moments in order to effect continuous and uniform delivery of said liquid;

(b) feeding said liquid to a plurality of storage tanks, each storage tank being in fluid communication with at least a pair of the pumping units via at least a pair of respective feeding lines, and

(c) continuously injecting said liquid into said mass at an injection pressure equal to said predetermined pressure by means of a plurality of injectors independent from each other in respective fluid communication with said plurality of storage tanks, in order to introduce said liquid into the molten mass without appreciable interruptions.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's independent **claim 34** recites injecting the pressurized liquid into a molten mass. Claim 34 requires at least two injectors, each of which is indirectly

connected to at least two pumping units. The closest prior art of record is Belli et al. (WO 0247092), henceforth **Belli**. As explained in the rejection mailed, November 30, 2010, Belli teaches a method making a cable by injecting a pressurized dielectric liquid into a molten thermoplastic. Belli also teaches some of the claimed structures: three injectors where each injector is connected to a single pumping unit.

What, then, makes Applicant's claimed invention not obvious over Belli? Applicant's goal is to inject the pressurized liquid evenly and continuously. Applicant achieves this goal by doing two things: First, Applicant feeds the liquid into each injector's storage tank by using two pumps whose operation is staggered. This has the effect of keeping the pressure and the supply in the storage tank constant even as the liquid is transferred to the injector. Second, Applicant dispenses the liquid from two independent injectors without appreciable interruptions. This has the effect of making the flow continuous and uniform. While Belli teaches some of the structures, neither Belli nor the related prior art of record teaches or suggests these operational steps.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Magali P. Slawski whose telephone number is (571)

270-3960. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer K. Michener can be reached on (571) 272-1424. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jennifer K. Michener/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1795

/Magali P. Slawski/
Examiner, Art Unit 1795